

I claim:

1. A telecommunication system configured to provide distributed system monitoring, the telecommunication system comprising:

5           a control system; and  
          a plurality of peer communication devices, each communication device, responsive to handling telecommunications data, collects performance data and transfers the performance data to the control system;

          the control system, responsive to receipt of the performance data from the  
10   communication devices, processes the performance data from each of the communication devices to generate a performance file that indicates the performance of each of the communication devices, and transfers the performance file to each of the communication devices;

          each communication device, responsive to receipt of the performance file, processes  
15   the performance file to compare its performance to the performance of the other peer communication devices.

2. The telecommunication system of claim 1 wherein each communication device processes the performance file to attempt to improve its performance.

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3. The telecommunication system of claim 1 wherein one of the communication devices monitors the one communication device to detect a fault.

4. The telecommunication system of claim 3 wherein the one communication device,  
25   responsive to detection of the fault, processes the performance file to identify at least one recovery action and performs the at least one recovery action.

5. The telecommunications system of claim 4 wherein the one communication device determines if the fault is cured by the at least one recovery action, generates a report of the  
30   fault if the fault is not cured by the at least one recovery action, and transfers the report of the fault to the control system.

6. The telecommunications system of claim 5 wherein the control system, responsive to receipt of the report of the fault, identifies at least one recovery action, and performs the at least recovery action on the one communication device.

5 7. The telecommunication system of claim 1 wherein each communication device processes the performance file by comparing its performance data with performance data of the other peer communication devices.

8. The telecommunications system of claim 1, wherein:

10 each communication device periodically transfers the performance data to the control system.

9. The telecommunications system of claim 1 wherein the performance data includes a performance grade for each communication device.

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10. The telecommunications system of claim 1 wherein the performance file includes a list of performance data for each of the plurality of peer communication devices.

11. A method of operating a telecommunication system to provide distributed system monitoring, wherein the telecommunication system comprises a plurality of peer communication devices coupled to a control system, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting performance data in each of the plurality of peer communication devices responsive to each of the plurality of peer communication devices handling telecommunications data,

transferring the performance data from each of the plurality of peer communication devices to the control system,

processing the performance data from each of the communication devices in the control system to generate a performance file that indicates the performance of each of the communication devices,

transferring the performance file from the control system to each of the communication devices, and

processing the performance file in each of the plurality of peer communication devices to compare its performance to the performance of the other peer communication devices.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

processing the performance file in each of the plurality of peer communication devices to attempt to improve its performance.

13. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:

monitoring each of the plurality of peer communication devices to detect a fault.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the steps of:

responsive to detecting the fault in one of the plurality of communication devices, processing the performance file in the one communication device to identify at least one recovery action, and

performing the at least one recovery action.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

determining if the fault is cured by the at least one recovery action,

generating a report of the fault if the fault is not cured by the at least one recovery action, and

5 transferring the report of the fault to the control system.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

responsive to receipt of the report of the fault in the control system, identifying at

least one recovery action, and performing the at least one recovery action on the one

10 communication device.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of processing the performance file in each of the plurality of peer communication devices to compare its performance to the performance of the other peer communication devices comprises the step of:

15 processing the performance file by comparing its performance data with performance data of the other peer communication devices.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the step of transferring the performance data from each of the plurality of peer communication devices to the control system comprises the step of:

20 periodically transferring the performance data from each of the plurality of peer communication devices to the control system.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein the performance data includes a performance grade for each communication device.

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20. The method of claim 11 wherein the performance file includes a list of performance data for each of the plurality of peer communication devices.